



**SANDY SCHUMAN**  
 Storyteller, Musician, Educator

Sandy Schuman is a storyteller, musician, and educator. He tells stories about songs and song-writers, personal adventures, historical sagas, folk tales, and stories in the Jewish storytelling tradition. His programs include:

**Familiar Songs and their Unfamiliar Stories**

Learn how some of the best-known American songs came to be written. This program features songs from the *Great American Songbook* and stories about the people who wrote them.

**Singer, Songwriter, Murderer; “King of the 12-String Guitar”**

Was Huddie “Lead Belly” Ledbetter justly sentenced to prison for murder? Twice? Was he exploited by the man who discovered him? Did he have to share credit for writing the #1 hit song of 1950!

**New York Tales: Tall & True**

Some of New York State’s folklore is truly unbelievable. Some of its history is even more so. “The Great American Hoax,” “The Goldarndest Liar,” “How New York State Got its Western Border,” “The Curse of Mamie O’Rourke,” ...

**My Father Was a Storyteller**

From help wanted ads to front page headlines, beaches to skyscrapers, my father’s longed for saxophone to my sister’s required piano, this personal and historical saga stretches across “the stories of a lifetime.”

**Jewish Stories Every Person Should Know**

A Rabbi, a Prophet, and a King Walk into a Bar – and other stories, old and new, that reveal Jewish humor, tradition, and values.

**Welcome to Chelm’s Pond ...**

... where the ridiculous stories of Chelm meet the preposterous tall tales of the Adirondacks, where “every acre is two acres, you can till the soil with a teaspoon, and there are not only four seasons, there are five.”

**How to Tell a Story**

A workshop for beginners – teenagers, educators, grandparents – who want to learn or sharpen their storytelling skills.

*There is always  
 another side to the  
 story.*



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**ANOTHER SIDE TO THE STORY**

**New York Tales:  
 Tall & True**



**HISTORY & FOLKLORE  
 OF THE  
 EMPIRE STATE**

# NEW YORK TALES: TALL & TRUE

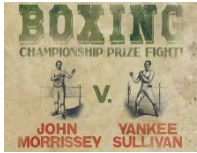
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## The Goldarndest Liar



Move over Paul Bunyan & Pecos Bill. It’s time for a New York tall-tale character. But, could it be that Bill Greenfield, “the goldarndest, most unreasonable liar,” was a real person?

## Land Beyond Law



The inhabitants of Boston Corners desperately petitioned the Legislature to be separated from Massachusetts and annexed to New York. Six years and a prizefight later, it was done.

## How the Empire State got its Western Border



Why does New York’s border make an abrupt turn at its western corner? It’s a story of wilderness adventuring, international tension, and desperate conflict resolution.

## The Curse of Mamie O'Rourke



For 37 years no horse won the Triple Crown, thwarted by The Curse. How was The Curse lifted, enabling American Pharaoh to win in 2015? Horse racing pundits are mystified.

## The MacPherson Legacy



Little is known of John and Mary MacPherson. Nonetheless, the obscure inscription – engraved in the base of this monument – reads, “MacPherson Legacy to the City of Albany.”

## The Great American Hoax



P. T. Barnum said, “There’s a sucker born every minute.” George Hull, the Binghamton cigar manufacturer who created The Cardiff Giant, would tell you that is not true.

## The First Fountain



Col. Henry King wanted a fountain erected as a memorial to his father. Completing the task fell to Henry’s brother, creating a work of art to tell a familiar story that would need no explanation.

## A Month of Sundaes



The research of two Ithaca high schoolers provided unassailable, documentary evidence, but rival stories still abound, unjustly claiming the “Birthplace of the Ice Cream Sundae.”

## The Sea Serpent of Silver Lake



A hundred swore they saw it, a repulsive, horrid, monstrous serpent. Many came to see it, some to contest it; a whaler came to harpoon it. Walker’s hotel gladly accommodated.

## The World’s Most Popular Instrument



“John and Will Smith work all alone, in a tiny factory without a sign on it. They haven’t got a phone. But real connoisseurs of jew’s-harps beat a track to their door.” ~ *The New Yorker*